

Remarks

Claims 15-31 are pending.

Claims 16-18, 20, 22-28 and 31 are withdrawn.

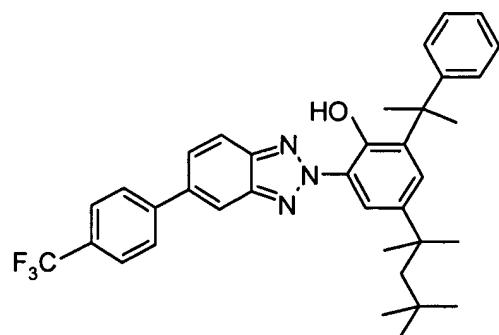
Claims 15, 19, 21, 29 and 30 are under consideration.

Claims 15, 19, 21, 29 and 30 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Trainor, et al., U.S. Pat. No. 6,296,674.

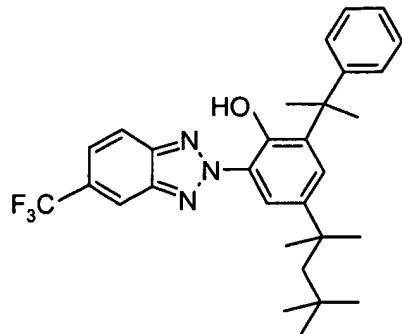
Applicants respectfully rebut the rejections.

The compounds of Trainor are 5-substituted benzotriazoles while the present compounds are 5-aryl-benzotriazoles.

For instance, the elected specie of 5-(4-trifluoromethylphenyl)-2-(2-hydroxy-3- α -cumyl-5-tert-octylphenyl)-2H-benzotriazole is:



The compounds of Trainor are for example:



Applicants submit that the present benzotriazoles are neither anticipated nor obvious over those of Trainor.

In light of the present discussion, Applicants submit that the claim rejections are addressed and are overcome.

The Examiner is kindly requested to reconsider and to withdraw the present rejections.

Applicants submit that the present claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that they be found allowable.

Applicants further respectfully request that the withdrawn claims be rejoined as all compounds of formula (I) are novel and non-obvious and therefore no further search should be required.

Respectfully submitted,

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